(ii) Placing the FDI in the SSI Sector, under the automatic route with enhanced equity cap, subject to the management control vesting with the Indian shareholders, (c) Government already provides financial assistance for participation in international fairs/trade delegation/production of material for overseas publicity, etc. by SSIs. Besides, the "Brands Equity Fund"'provides assistance for promotion of Indian Brands in overseas markets and to help project India as a reliable supplier of quality goods and services. In addition, matchmaking of large buyers, both Indian and foreign, with SSIs is promoted through the Sub-Contracting Exchanges in the country.

(c) FDI in the SSI Sector is already under the automatic route with a cap of 24% equity participation. There is no proposal at present to enhance this equity cap.

Shortage of Transponders

905. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether »t is a fact that the country is facing shortage of transponders;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country is also facing severe shortage of C-band transponders;

(c) if so, the reason therefor; and

(d) the number of transponders utilised by the country from 1998 to December, 2001 yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATIVASUNDHARA RAJE): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In recent years, the demand for C-band transponders has significantly gone up, exceeding the supply.

(d) The year wise availability of C & Ext-C band transponders is as follows:

Year		Transponders
1998	—	60
1999	—	64
2000	—	75
2001	—	70

Discontinuation oi central irojects

†906. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to discontinue 1076 projects out of total projects being run through the Central assistance and the Central Projects;

(b) if so, the amount spent by Government so far on these projects and results achieved therefrom;

(c) what has been return of the amount spent so far on these projects during the last two years;

(d) whether the amount has been misused; and

(e) if so, whether any action has been taken / is being taken / would be taken against the persons held responsible for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATT VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) No, Sir, However, Planning Commission has undertaken a review of the existing schemes (Both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) and subject them to Zero- based Budgeting. The exercise will help in rationalizing the schemes by making them more focused and streamline the delivery system to ensure that benefits reach the target group.

Speedy Completion of Central Sector Projects

907. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the Central Sector Projects are suffering cost-overrun and time overrun;

(b) if so, the reason for such delay; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete projects as quickly as possible?